

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2557

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study on the inclusion in Biscayne National Park, Florida, of the archaeological site known as the Miami Circle.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study on the inclusion in Biscayne National Park, Florida, of the archaeological site known as the Miami Circle.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FEASIBILITY STUDY REGARDING INCLUSION**
4 **OF MIAMI CIRCLE IN BISCAYNE NATIONAL**
5 **PARK.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

7 (1) The Tequesta Indians were one of the ear-
8 liest groups to establish permanent villages in south-
9 east Florida.

1 (2) The Tequestas had one of only two North
2 American civilizations that thrived and developed
3 into a complex social chiefdom without an agricul-
4 tural base.

5 (3) The Tequesta sites that remain preserved
6 today are rare.

7 (4) The Miami Circle, which includes the re-
8 mains of a circular ceremonial site constructed by
9 the Tequesta approximately 2,000 years ago, pre-
10 sents a valuable new opportunity to learn more
11 about the Tequesta culture.

12 (5) Biscayne National Park in nearby Home-
13 stead, Florida, already contains and protects several
14 prehistoric Tequesta sites.

15 (6) As a valuable archaeological resource and
16 the only Tequesta ceremonial site of its kind known
17 to exist in Florida, the Miami Circle is a national re-
18 source appropriate for preservation and protection
19 as part of the National Park System.

20 (b) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Inte-
21 rior, acting through the Director of the National Park
22 Service, shall conduct a study to determine the feasibility
23 of including the Miami Circle in Biscayne National Park
24 in the State of Florida.

1 (c) COMPONENTS.—The study shall include the anal-
2 ysis and recommendations of the Secretary with respect
3 to—

4 (1) which, if any, particular areas of or sur-
5 rounding the Miami Circle should be included in
6 Biscayne National Park;

7 (2) whether any additional staff, facilities, or
8 other resources would be necessary to administer the
9 Miami Circle as a unit of the Park; and

10 (3) any impact on the local area that would re-
11 sult from the inclusion of the Miami Circle in the
12 Park.

13 (d) COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION.—Not later than
14 19 months after the date of the enactment of this Act,
15 the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing
16 the findings and recommendations contained in the study.

17 (e) MIAMI CIRCLE DEFINED.—In this section, the
18 term “Miami Circle” means the property in Miami-Dade
19 County of the State of Florida consisting of the three par-
20 cels described in Exhibit A in the appendix to the sum-
21 mons to show cause and notice of eminent domain pro-
22 ceedings, filed February 18, 1999, in Miami-Dade County
23 v. Brickell Point, Ltd., in the circuit court of the 11th
24 judicial circuit of Florida in and for Miami-Dade County.

1 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
3 essary to carry out this section.

○